



***Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group***  
**Meeting Minutes**  
*April 15, 2009*

**Summary**

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**Epidemiology Work Group Members in Attendance (10):**

Steve Gendler (Arizona Department of Public Safety)  
David Redpath, proxy for Amy Stuart (Administrative Office of the Courts)  
Michael Dolny (Arizona Department of Corrections)  
Meena Shahi (Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board, First Things First)  
Wendy Wolfersteig (Arizona State University)  
Michelle Anderson (Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections)—via conference call  
Jody Sekerak (Indian Health Services)—via conference call  
Katherine Guffey (Arizona Department of Economic Security)—via conference call  
Phillip Stevenson, Chair (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission)  
David Choate, proxy for Charles Katz (Arizona State University)

**Epidemiology Work Group Members Absent (6)**

James Cunningham (University of Arizona)  
Catherine Osborn (Arizona Department of Education)  
Gowri Shetty (Arizona Department of Health Services)  
Richard Porter (Arizona Department of Health Services)  
Dennis Embry (Paxis Institute, Inc.)  
Zeenat Mahal (Inter Tribal Council of Arizona)

**Governor's Office Staff (1)**

Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF, DSAP)

**Public (3):**

Ric Wood (Pima Prevention Partnership)  
Alf Olson (Arizona Department of Corrections)  
Gordon South (Arizona Department of Health Services)

**Call to Order** was made by Phillip Stevenson at 1:11 p.m. after noting that a quorum was present.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Phillip Stevenson asked the attendees and guests present to introduce themselves and their respective agency/group.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Stevenson referred attendees to the March, 2009 meeting minutes and asked attendees to review them for any errors. Steve Gendler motioned to approve the minutes as written; Meena Shahi seconded. Motion passed with no objections.



## **Announcements**

- Mr. Stevenson called for announcements.
  - Meena Shahi indicated that Requests for Grant Applications (RFGAs) can be found on the First Things First website.
  - Wendy Wolfersteig announced that the Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center (SIRC) will be applying for recovery monies available to the Center through an Administrative Supplement Grant. The Center will be working with the Governor's Office and its partner agencies to apply for these funds.
  - Jeanne Blackburn noted that volunteers to assist with monitoring breakout sessions and to help with registration are needed for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Arizona Substance Abuse Conference. Volunteers will attend the full conference at no cost.
    - David Choate indicated that he may have a student that can volunteer her time to assist with the conference.

## **ASAP Update**

- Phillip Stevenson provided an update on the Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership.
  - The most notable outcome of the meeting was the change in the group dynamics; the group is now more participatory in nature and the following was discussed at the meeting:
    - Mr. James Copple, from Strategic Applications International, asked members whether they were comfortable in moving forward on the four Strategic Focus Areas previously named for 2009. The group was in general agreement that ASAP should:
      - continue to move forward with the prescription drug abuse Strategic Focus Area;
      - maintain underage drinking as a Strategic Focus Area;
      - continue to focus on drug-endangered children as a strategic focus area; and
      - change the media and marketing campaigns strategic focus area to cover prevention and how to best impact and provide resources to communities.
        - Ms. Hester noted that she would be glad to coordinate a workgroup and bring prevention representatives together to gather ideas and get a better understanding of what state agencies can do to support communities.
    - Mr. Copple asked whether or not heroin should fall under the 2008 "Emerging Trends and the State's Capacity to Respond" Executive Action Briefing or whether it should be a Strategic Focus Area.
      - A Spotlight Report by the Emerging Issues Subcommittee will be developed on this topic.
    - The next ASAP meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2009.
      - David Choate indicated that he will be able to attend this meeting as Chair of the Emerging Issues Subcommittee but will have to arrive late due to a previous commitment that cannot be rescheduled.



- David Choate inquired as to whether the chairs of the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group and the Emerging Issues Subcommittee will be able to sit as official members of ASAP.
  - Jeanne Blackburn indicated that she will follow up with Morgan Hester, the GOCYF staff responsible for staffing the ASAP.

### **Adult Prevalence Questions Review**

- The group members had been provided with several national adult prevalence surveys and used them to begin a discussion on the addition of questions related to adult substance abuse to the 2010 Arizona Health Survey conducted by Saint Luke's Health Initiative.
  - The members concurred that it would be ideal to have questions that ask about illicit drug use (the survey already asks about alcohol and prescription drug use) that occurred within the respondent's lifetime, past 12 months, past 30 days, and past 7 days.
    - The substance of interest should be the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) 5: powder cocaine; crack cocaine; marijuana; heroin; and methamphetamine.
    - The questions on the NIDA 5 should be followed by a randomly-selected inventory of "other" drugs (i.e., random rotation of the listing of drugs to follow).
      - Detailed questions will be asked about the first such drug that a respondent indicates that s/he has used with a dichotomous question about all following drugs in the inventory.
    - Questions added should assist communities with responding to the requirements for reporting on the National Outcome Measures (NOMs).
      - Examples that should be added include:
        - As a parent, have you talked to your kids about prevention?
        - Is the respondent aware of prevention messages?
        - Perception of the harmfulness of drug use
  - Age at first use is another question that the group would like to see added to the survey.
  - Questions related to assessing substance abuse/dependence according to DSM criteria are essential.
  - The group would like to see a question added to the survey on injection drug use to get at risky activities associated with drug use (especially as it pertains to the increased risk of HIV/AIDS that can occur from the use of dirty needles and co-occurring risky sexual activity).
  - The group would recommend amending the current questions that address mental health/substance abuse to be asked as separate questions (i.e., questions on mental health to be asked separately from questions on substance abuse) to better assess comorbidity as the current survey asks whether respondents have received or sought services for mental health and/or substance abuse.



- Jeanne Blackburn will follow up with David Choate and Ric Wood to obtain specific survey question wording that has already been used and once a list of questions is compiled, will follow up with the group members to make sure that the list is an accurate representation of the questions that they would like to see added to the Arizona Health Survey.

### **SPF SIG II—Partnerships for Success: State and Community Prevention Performance Grant**

- Group members discussed which indicator(s) should be the focus of the Partnerships for Success: State and Community Prevention Performance Grant application.
  - The group decided that it would like the grant to focus on adult binge drinking and underage drinking, but will defer to ASAP's Underage Drinking Prevention (UAD) Committee to decide on the specific indicators to be targeted and the geographic and/or demographic areas of interest (with the suggestion that the grant focus on both an urban and a rural area) so that these indicators fall in line with the UAD Committee's current efforts.
    - The Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group will support these decisions through data and analysis to determine whether these measures can be measured longitudinally.

### **Data Gap: Community-Level Data**

- Jeanne Blackburn informed the group that the Governor's Office is attempting to address the community-level data gap that was identified in both the 2005 and 2007 *Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile*.
  - The Governor's Office would like to grant monies to the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission for them to act as a data clearinghouse. This clearinghouse would serve as the repository for data collected by communities and would be responsible for analyzing and disseminating the data back to the communities as well as disseminating other data already collected by the agency.
    - Currently, the ACJC does not have the capacity (i.e., staff) to conduct this work and cannot hire anyone due to the hiring freeze in Arizona.
      - Once the hiring freeze has been lifted, a subgrantee agreement will be drafted by the Governor's Office for the ACJC to begin to address this data gap.

### **Call to Public**

Call to the public was made, with no comments from the guests in attendance.

**Adjourn** at 3:10 p.m. with a reminder that the next meeting will be held on May 20, 2009 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in Room 250 at the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission building at 1110 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007.

Minutes submitted by Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF, DSAP).